

*Lear.* Deny to speake with me?  
They are sicke, they are weary,  
They haue traual'd all the night? meere fetches,  
The images of reuolt and flying off.  
Fetch me a better answer.

*Glo.* My deere Lord,  
You know the fiery quality of the Duke,  
How vnremouable and fixt he is  
In his owne course.

*Lear.* Vengeance, Plague, Death, Confusion:  
Fiery? What quality? Why *Gloster, Gloster*,  
I'd speake with the Duke of *Cornwall*, and his wife.

*Glo.* Well my good Lord; I haue inform'd them so.

*Lear.* Inform'd them? Do'st thou vnderstand me man.

*Glo.* I my good Lord.

*Lear.* The King would speake with *Cornwall*,  
The deere Father  
Would with his Daughter speake, commands, tends, ser-  
Are they inform'd of this? My breath and blood: (uice,  
Fiery? The fiery Duke, tell the hot Duke that

No, but not yet, may be he is not well,  
Infirmity doth still neglect all office,  
Whereto our health is bound, we are not our selues,  
When Nature being oppress'd, commands the mind  
To suffer with the body; Ile forbear,  
And am fallen out with my more headier will,  
To take the indispos'd and sickly fit,  
For the found man. Death on my state: wherefore  
Should he sit heere? This ad' perswades me,  
That this remotion of the Duke and her  
Is practise only. Giue me my Seruant forth;  
Goe tell the Duke, and his wife, I'd speake with them:  
Now, presently: bid them come forth and heare me,  
Or at their Chamber doore Ile beate the Drum,  
Till it crie sleepe to death.

*Glo.* I would haue all well betwixt you. *Exit.*

*Lear.* Oh me my heart! My rising heart! But downe.

*Foole.* Cry to it Nunckle, as the Cockney did to the  
Eeles, when she put 'em i'th' Pisse aliuie, she knapt 'em  
o'th' coxcombs with a stick, and cryed downe wantons,  
downe: 'twas her Brother, that in pure kindnesse to his  
Horse buttered his Hay.

*Enter Cornwall, Regan, Gloster, Seruants.*

*Lear.* Good morrow to you both.

*Corn.* Haile to your Grace. *Kent here set at liberty.*

*Reg.* I am glad to see your Highnesse.

*Lear.* *Regan*, I thinke you are. I know what reason  
I haue to thinke so, if thou should'st not be glad,  
I would diuorce me from thy Mother Tombe,  
Sepulchring an Adulteresse. O are you free?  
Some other time for that. Beloued *Regan*,  
Thy Sisters naught: oh *Regan*, she hath tied  
Sharpe-tooth'd vnkindnesse, like a vulture heere,  
I can scarce speake to thee, thou'lt not belecue  
With how deprauid a quality. Oh *Regan*.

*Reg.* I pray you Sir, take patience, I haue hope  
You lesse know how to value her desert,  
Then she to scant her dutie.

*Lear.* Say? How is that?

*Reg.* I cannot thinke my Sister in the least  
Would faile her Obligation. If Sir perchance  
She haue restrained the Riots of your Followres,  
Tis on such ground, and to such wholesome end,  
As cleeres her from all blame.

*Lear.* My curses on her.

*Reg.* O Sir, you are old,  
Nature in you stands on the very Verge  
Of his confine: you should be rul'd, and led  
By some discretion, that discernes your state  
Better then you your selfe: therefore I pray you,  
That to our Sister, you do make returne,  
Say you haue wrong'd her.

*Lear.* Aske her forgiveness?  
Do you but marke how this becomes the house?  
Deere daughter, I confesse that I am old;

Age is vnneccessary: on my knees I begge,  
That you'll vouchsafe me Rayment, Bed, and Food.

*Reg.* Good Sir, no more: these are vnslightly trickes:  
Returne you to my Sister.

*Lear.* Neuer *Regan*:  
She hath abated me of halfe my Traine;  
Look'd blacke vpon me, strooke me with her Tongue  
Most Serpent-like, vpon the very Heart.  
All the stor'd Vengeances of Heauen, fall  
On her ingratefull top: strike her yong bones  
You taking Ayres, with Linnenesse.

*Corn.* Fye Sir, fye.

*Le.* You nimble Lightnings, dart your blinding flames  
Into her scornfull eyes: Infect her Beauty,  
You Fen-suck'd Poggies, drawne by the powrfull Sunne,  
To fall, and blister.

*Reg.* O the blest Gods!

So will you wish on me, when the rath moode is on.

*Lear.* No *Regan*, thou shalt neuer haue my curse:  
Thy tender-hefted Nature shall not giue  
Thee o're to harshnesse: Her eyes are fierce, but thine  
Do comfort, and not burne. 'Tis not in thee  
To grudge my pleasures, to cut off my Traine,  
To fall, and blister words, to scant my sizes,  
And in conclusion, to oppose the bolt  
Against my coming in. Thou better know'st  
The Offices of Nature, bond of Childhood,  
Effects of Curtesie, dues of Gratitude:  
Thy halfe o'th' Kingdome hast thou not forgot,  
Wherein I thee endow'd.

*Reg.* Good Sir, to'th' purpose. *Tucket within.*

*Lear.* Who put my man i'th' Stockes?

*Enter Steward.*

*Corn.* What Trumpet's that?

*Reg.* I know't, my Sisters: this approues her Letter,  
That she would soone be heere. Is your Lady come?

*Lear.* This is a Slave, whose easie borrowed pride  
Dwells in the sickly grace of her he followes.  
Out Varlet, from my sight.

*Corn.* What meanes your Grace?

*Enter Conerill.*

*Lear.* Who stockt my Seruant? *Regan*, I haue good hope  
Thou did'st not know on't.

Who comes here? O Heauens!

If you do loue old men; if your sweet sway  
Allow Obedience; if you your selues are old,  
Make it your cause: Send downe, and take my part.

Art not asham'd to looke vpon this Beard?

O *Regan*, will you take her by the hand?

*Gon.* Why not by'th' hand Sir? How haue I offended?

All's not offence that indiscretion findes,  
And dotage termes so.

*Lear.* O sides, you are too tough!

Will you yet hold?

How came my man i'th' Stockes?

*Corn.* I set him there, Sir: but his owne Disorders

*Deferu'd*

*Deferu'd* much lesse aduancement.

*Lear.* You? Did you?

*Reg.* I pray you Father being weake, seeme so:  
If still the expiration of your Moneth  
You will returne and sojourn with my Sister,  
Dismissing halfe your trains, come then to me,  
I am now from home, and out of that prouision  
Which shall be needfull for your entertainment.

*Lear.* Returne to her? and fifty men dismiss'd?

No, rather laboure all roofes, and chuse  
To wage against the enmity o'th' ayre,  
To be a Comrade with the Wolfe, and Owle,  
Necessities sharpe pinch. Returne with her?  
Why the hot-blooded *France*, that dowerlesse tooke  
Our yongest borne, I could as well be brought  
To knee his Throne, and Squire-like pension beg,  
To keepe base life a foote; returne with her?  
Perswade me rather to be slaue and sump'ter  
To this detested groom.

*Gon.* At your choice Sir.

*Lear.* I prythee Daughter do not make me mad,  
I will not trouble thee my Child; farewell:  
Wee'l no more meete, no more see one another.  
But yet thou art my flesh, my blood, my Daughter,  
Or rather a disease that's in my flesh,  
Which I must needs call mine. Thou art a Byle,  
A plague sore, or imbossed Carbuncle  
In my corrupted blood. But Ile not chide thee,  
Let shame come when it will, I do not call it,  
I do not bid the Thunder-bearer shooe,  
Nor tell tales of thee to high-judging *Ioue*.  
Mend when thou can'st, be better at thy leasure,  
I can be patient, I can stay with *Regan*,  
I and my hundred Knights.

*Reg.* Not altogether so,

I look'd not for you yet, nor am prouided  
For your fit welcome, giue care Sir to my Sister,  
For those that mingle reason with your passion,  
Must be content to thinke you old, and so,  
But she knowes what she doe's.

*Lear.* Is this well spoken?

*Reg.* I dare auouch it Sir, what fifty Followers?

Is it not well? What should you need of more?  
Yea, or so many? Sith that both charge and danger,  
Speake 'gainst so great a number? How in one house  
Should many people, vnder two commands  
Hold amity? 'Tis hard, almost impossible.

*Gon.* Why might not you my Lord, receiue attendance  
From those that she calls Seruants, or from mine?

*Reg.* Why not my Lord?

If then they chanc'd to slacke ye,  
We could comptroll them; if you will come to me,  
(For now I speake a danger) I entreate you  
To bring but fife and twentie, to no more  
Will I giue place or notice.

*Lear.* I gaue you all.

*Reg.* And in good time you gaue it.

*Lear.* Made you my Guardians, my Depositories,  
But kept a reservation to be followed

With such a number? What, must I come to you

With fife and twenty? *Regan*, said you so?

*Reg.* And speake againe my Lord, no more with me.

*Lea.* Those wicked Creatures yet do look wel fauor'd  
When others are: more wicked, not being the worst  
Stands in some ranke of praise, Ile go with thee,  
Thy fifty yet doth double fife and twenty.

And thou art twice her Loue.

*Gon.* Heare me my Lord;  
What need you fife and twenty? Ten? Or fife?  
To follow in a house, where twice so many  
Haue a command to tend you?

*Reg.* What need one?

*Lear.* O reason not the need: our basest Beggers  
Are in the poorest thing superfluous,  
Allow not Nature, more then Nature needs:  
Mans life is cheape as Beastes. Thou art a Lady;  
If only go warme were gorgeous,  
Why Nature needs not what thou gorgeous wear'st,  
Which scarcely keeps thee warme, but for true need:  
You Heauens, giue me that patience, patience I need,  
You see me heere (you Gods) a poore old man,  
As full of griefe as age, wretched in both,  
If it be you that stirres these Daughters hearts  
Against their Father, foole me not so much,  
You see me heere: touch me with Noble anger,  
To beare it tamely: touch me with Noble anger,  
And let not womens weapons, water drops,  
Staine my mans cheekes. No you vnnaturall Hags,  
I will haue such reuenges on you both,  
That all the world shall—I will do such things,  
What they are yet, I know not, but they shall be  
The terrors of the earth? you thinke Ile weepe,  
No, Ile not weepe, I haue full cause of weeping.

*Storme and Tempest.*  
But this heart shal break into a hundred thousand flaws  
Or ere Ile weepe; O Foole, I shall go mad. *Exit.*

*Corn.* Let vs withdraw, 'twill be a Storme.

*Reg.* This house is little, the old man and's people,  
Cannot be well bestow'd.

*Gon.* 'Tis his owne blame hath put himselfe from rest,  
And must needs taste his folly.

*Reg.* For his particular, Ile receiue him gladly,  
But not one follower.

*Gon.* So am I purpos'd.

Where is my Lord of *Gloster*?

*Enter Gloster.*

*Corn.* Followed the old man forth, he is return'd.

*Glo.* The King is in high rage.

*Corn.* Whether is he going?

*Glo.* He calls to Horse, but will I know not whether.

*Corn.* 'Tis best to giue him way, he leads himselfe.

*Gon.* My Lord, entreate him by no meanes to stay.

*Glo.* Alacke the night comes on, and the high windes  
Do forely ruffle, for many Miles about  
There's scarce a Bush.

*Reg.* O Sir, to wilfull men,  
The iniuries that they themselues procure,  
Must be their Schoole-Masters: shut vp your doores,  
He is attended with a desperate traine,  
And what they may incense him too, being apt,  
To haue his eare abus'd, wisdome bids feare.

*Cor.* Shut vp your doores my Lord, 'tis a wil'd night,  
My *Regan* counsels well: come out o'th' storme. *Exit.*

### Actus Tertius. Scena Prima.

*Storme still. Enter Kent, and a Gentleman, severally.*

*Kent.* Who's there besides foule weather?

*Gon.* One minded like the weather, most vnquietly.

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*Kent.*